Eucalyptus tour
Prepared by AABGA
by Ron Bracewell
Meet at Campus Drive & Escondido
2000 October 13th 14th 30th

The SW side of Campus Drive between Escondido Road and Serra Street was planted with about 22 different species of Eucalyptus, in pairs, on April 29, 1964, by Dirk Schroeder using stock obtained from Max Watson of San Jose. This planting developed more like an arboretum than an landscaping. When sixteen house trailers were installed for student housing, denser screening was provided by Myoporum shrubbery. In the fall of 1969 about 80 E. camaldulensis and 80 E. polyanthemos were planted close to the trailers, alternating in groups of about 10 each. This barrier has essentially survived as large trees, 12 to 16 inches in diameter, as would be expected by experience.

About half of the species from the 1964 planting have survived; those surviving in pairs (E. albens, E. redunca and E. macronuda) are among the most successful species. Next to the macronuda specimen is a strong tree with ruddy peeling bark judged to be a E. botryoides hybrid by Lawrie A.S. Johnson. The most attractive survivor is a mallis, E. erythronema, with multiple white stems and very nice red flowers, growing on a dry clayey site. It has received high recommendations which, as the only example on the Campus, it confirms.

After replacement of the trailers by Schwab Residential Center and Lastana and Casaño halls, further screening was added between the latter two and Campus Drive in the form of a mix of Leptospermum scoparium varieties and L. laevisatum, Acacia longifolia, several more E. camaldulensis and E. polyanthemos (noticeable by their smaller diameters), and about 20 densely-spaced E. leucocylon with curiously shaped fruit in threes.

Both camaldulensis and polyanthemos have proved susceptible to the invasion of lerp insects; heavy deposits of lers are noticeable below the larger trees, and are edible (the lers, not the psyllids, which in any case are tiny in relation to the conspicuous damage they have caused). Our other destructive pest, the larva of a long horned beetle, is not in evidence in this location. Both pests are susceptible to attack by specialist wasps.